Statement Regarding Governor Newsom Signing Senate Bill 154

Kristen Soares, President, Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities

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A strong and efficient transfer pipeline between California community colleges and independent colleges and universities is a priority for AICCU and our member institutions. Each year, independent higher education institutions proudly enroll between nearly 5,000 new California transfer students. We are very excited to see Governor Newsom sign SB 154, the state's budget bill, which provides funding to expand the ASSIST platform to incorporate independent, nonprofit colleges and universities.

"ASSIST is an integral tool for community college students and transfer counselors to determine course articulation and transfer pathways between community colleges and the UCs and CSUs," said AICCU President Kristen Soares. "Independent institutions have been the missing piece in this transfer puzzle and now, with this state support, transfer students can use the ASSIST tool to help them clearly see, understand, and consider the full scope of transfer options available to them."

AICCU is also gratified to see the $5 million one-time investment the state is making into the California Indian Nations College (CINC) in this budget. This will support their efforts to complete their accreditation and to become the first institution in California to receive federal Tribal College and University recognition. CINC is a nonprofit, two-year college based in Palm Desert, CA.

AICCU thanks Governor Newsom and legislative leaders for their commitment to student success, college access, and higher education equity.

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About AICCU
The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) is comprised of 85 independent, nonprofit colleges and universities, which make up the Independent California Colleges and Universities (ICCU) sector. The ICCU sector plays a pivotal role in the development of the state's model higher education offerings and in making California a symbol of innovation across the globe. Within California, ICCU institutions award over 20 percent of all undergraduate degrees and over 50 percent of graduate degrees, making them the largest preparers of California's advanced workforce.

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